Service Tax on Pre-paid Cards

2343. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the private mobile operators in the country, the Airtel in particular, have increased their processing and service tax on pre-paid cards from 35 per cent—50 per cent, without any notice to the subscribers; and

(b) if so, the action prooosed to be taken for this clandestine increase in processing and service tax in the garb of making incoming calls free?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Sir, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), as per the TRAI act, is reponsible for fixation of tariffs for Telecom Services in the country. As per information furnished by TRAI, some private operators for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) including, Bharti group of companies which have a brand name of Airtel for providing CMTS, have recently revised their pre-paid tariff schemes. This revision *inter-alia*, includes an increase in the processing fee and reduction in call charges. However, no instance has come to notice where the revised tariffs have been implemented without intimation to the subscribers.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Cyber-Terrorism

2344. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up any Committee to fight out cyber-terrorism;

(b) if so, the composition thereof and the areas of the function assigned to it;

(c) whether any methodology has been devised for intercepting SMS, e-mails and cyber-related crimes;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any efforts are being made to have bilateral agreements with foreign countries to deal with cyber-crimes committed from foreign lands but affecting India;

(f) if so, the status thereof; and

(g) whether there is any proposal to bring cyber-cafes and SMS messages under the existing laws to tackle the cyber-crimes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (d) In order to fight Cyber Terrorism and other attacks on computer networks, a specialized cell called Cyber Crime Investigation Cell has been formed, in the CBI.

The Government has initiated steps to Explore possibilities of intercepting SMS, e-mails, which could lead to cyber-related crimes etc.

(e) and (f) Cyber Crime Investigation cell of CBI has been made a 24 hour contact point by Interpol for reporting Cyber Crimes in India. CBI has also become a member of "Cyber Crime Technology Information Sharing Network" created by National Police Agency, Japan.

(g) Cyber Crimes committed using Cyber Cafes and SMS messages etc. are already covered under the provisions of existing laws which have been further supplemented by provisions in IT Act 2000.

Opportunities in IT and Communications

2345. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is fully exploiting the opportunities offered by the Information Technology and Communication sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) where does India stand in the Information Technology and Communications sector as of now; and